

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 5, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 26, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 50**

**Introduced by Assembly Members Tran and DeVore**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Arambula, Baca, Benoit, Bermudez, Blakeslee, Bogh, Calderon, Chavez, Cogdill, Coto, Daucher, Dymally, Emmerson, Garcia, Harman, Haynes, Jerome Horton, Shirley Horton, Houston, Huff, Jones, Keene, La Malfa, La Suer, Leslie, Liu, Maze, McCarthy, Montanez, Mountjoy, Mullin, Negrete McLeod, Niello, Parra, Plescia, Richman, Sharon Runner, Ruskin, Salinas, Spitzer, Strickland, Umberg, Vargas, Villines, Walters, and Wyland)**

April 7, 2005

---

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 50—Relative to Pope John Paul II.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 50, as amended, Tran. Pope John Paul II.

This measure would note with deep sorrow and solemn mourning the death of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, would extend heartfelt sympathy to all people who have been touched by the passing of Pope John Paul II, would commend Pope John Paul II for his ability to transcend the bounds of religion, race, and political thought, becoming a formidable champion, uniter, and defender in humanity's struggle for peace and basic human rights, and would call on all the people of

California to reflect on the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II during this international period of remembrance.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, ~~Karel~~ Karol Jozef Wojtyła, known as John Paul  
2 II since his October 16, 1978, election to the papacy until his  
3 death on April 2, 2005, was born in Wadowice, Poland, on May  
4 18, 1920, the day of the “Polish Miracle,” that nation’s first  
5 military victory in 200 years and a day that set in motion events  
6 that briefly restored Poland’s independence; and

7 WHEREAS, He made his First Holy Communion at age 9,  
8 was confirmed at 18, and saw his mother, father, and eldest  
9 brother all die before he turned 21, and upon graduation from  
10 Marcin Wadowita High School in Wadowice, he enrolled in  
11 Krakow’s Jagiellonian University in 1938 and in a school for  
12 drama; and

13 WHEREAS, The Nazi occupation forces closed Krakow’s  
14 Jagiellonian University, where he was enrolled in 1939, and  
15 forced him to work in a lime quarry and then in a chemical  
16 factory; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1942, aware of his call to the priesthood after  
18 nearly being killed by a Nazi, he began courses in the clandestine  
19 seminary of Krakow, run by Cardinal Adam Stefan Sapieha,  
20 archbishop of Krakow, and at the same time, Karol Wojtyła  
21 participated in the Polish resistance against the occupying Nazis  
22 as one of the pioneers of the Rhapsodic Theatre, which  
23 performed clandestinely in order to keep Polish culture alive; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1948, upon his return to Poland after studying  
25 theology in Rome, he served as vicar of several parishes in  
26 Krakow and the surrounding area, as well as chaplain for the  
27 university students until 1951, when he took up again his studies  
28 on philosophy and theology; and

29 WHEREAS, He was a distinguished professor of moral  
30 theology and social ethics in the major seminary of Krakow and  
31 in the Faculty of Theology of Lublin; and

32 WHEREAS, He resisted his nation’s communist government  
33 by leading his students on clandestine camping trips into the  
34 Polish mountains, which those students later described as the  
35 only times they ever felt truly free; and

WHEREAS, On July 4, 1958, Pope Pius XII appointed Wojtyła auxiliary bishop of Krakow, for which he was consecrated on September 28, 1958, in Wawel Cathedral, Krakow, by Archbishop Eugeniusz Baziak; and

WHEREAS, On January 13, 1964, he was nominated Archbishop of Krakow by Pope Paul VI, who made him a cardinal June 26, 1967; and

WHEREAS, As archbishop of Krakow he forced the communist government to build a church in a formerly churchless town; and

WHEREAS, On October 16, 1978, Karol Wojtyła began his pontificate as Pope John Paul II; and

WHEREAS, His first words as pope were, “Be not afraid”; and

WHEREAS, He was the first non-Italian pope since the 1522 election of Adrian VI and the first Pole to ever sit on the Throne of Peter; and

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II used his pontificate in a unique fashion, emerging as more than just the leader of the Catholic Church, but a global voice against communism, oppression, and tyranny, and working both in public and private to exercise his influence against the forces of injustice; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980s, Pope John Paul II was a vocal supporter of the Polish Solidarity movement and his support for striking workers at the Gdansk Shipyard was a key to the downfall of communism in Poland, which in turn began a chain of events ultimately leading to the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact; and

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II was acknowledged by Mikhail Gorbachev to have played an essential role in the liberation of those who lived under European communism when he stated “everything that happened in Eastern Europe . . . would have been impossible without this Pope”; and

WHEREAS, His criticism of dictators in countries such as Poland and the Soviet Bloc, Paraguay, Chile, Nicaragua, and the Philippines encouraged opposition movements that eventually brought down those governments; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, Pope John Paul II visited Cuba to speak directly to the Cuban people and their Communist rulers, calling for political and religious freedom, the release of political

1 prisoners, a recognition of the right to express one’s faith “in the  
2 context of public life,” and the importance of fundamental human  
3 dignities, including that “each person enjoying freedom of  
4 expression, being free to undertake initiatives and make  
5 proposals within civil society, and enjoying appropriate freedom  
6 of association” is a necessity; and

7 WHEREAS, His was the third longest pontificate in the  
8 history of the papacy; and

9 WHEREAS, In his 26 ½ years as Pope, John Paul II held nine  
10 consistories in which he created 232 cardinals, including all but  
11 two of the 115 Cardinal Electors who entered the Conclave and  
12 elected his successor, Pope Benedict XVI, previously known to  
13 the world as Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger; and

14 WHEREAS, During his pontificate, the Holy Father named  
15 over 3,500 of the world’s nearly 4,200 bishops; and

16 WHEREAS, He wrote 14 encyclicals, 14 apostolic  
17 exhortations, 11 apostolic constitutions, 42 apostolic letters and  
18 28 *Moto proprio*, in addition to hundreds of other messages and  
19 letters; and

20 WHEREAS, He wrote five books: *Crossing the Threshold of*  
21 *Hope* (1994), *Gift and Mystery* (1996), *Roman Triptych* (poetry,  
22 2003), *Rise* 2003), *Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way* (2004) and  
23 *Memory and Identity* (2005); and

24 WHEREAS, He planned and inaugurated the Great Jubilee  
25 Year of 2000; and

26 WHEREAS, The 84-year-old Pope presided over 15 synods of  
27 bishops: six ordinary (1980, 1983, 1987, 1990, 1994, 2001), one  
28 extraordinary (1985) and eight special assemblies (1980, 1991,  
29 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998 (two synods) and 1999); and

30 WHEREAS, The Holy Father undertook 104 pastoral visits  
31 outside Italy, the last of which was to Lourdes in August 2004,  
32 and 143 trips within Italy and nearly 700 within his diocese of  
33 Rome, including visits to 301 of the 325 diocesan parishes, in  
34 addition to religious institutes, universities, seminaries, hospitals,  
35 rest homes, prisons and schools; and

36 WHEREAS, With his 247 foreign and Italian pastoral visits,  
37 Pope John Paul II logged 700,380 miles, which equals 28 times  
38 the earth’s circumference or three times the distance between the  
39 earth and moon; and

1 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II delivered his message of hope  
2 to millions of Americans during his five trips to the United  
3 States, including two trips to California; and

4 WHEREAS, While he was in Rome, the Pope welcomed an  
5 average of one million people per year, including 500,000 who  
6 attended the weekly general audiences and Angelus addresses, in  
7 addition to those who came for special liturgical functions such  
8 as Christmas and Easter Masses, beatifications and  
9 canonizations; and

10 WHEREAS, He also received approximately 150,000–180,000  
11 people per year in audiences granted to particular groups, heads  
12 of state and governments; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1981, Pope John Paul II survived an  
14 assassination attempt after being shot twice by Mehmet Ali Agca  
15 in St. Peter's Square, whom the Pope later personally met and  
16 forgave; and

17 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II, a survivor of fascism,  
18 communism, and terrorism, was a tireless voice for morality,  
19 decency, and human rights; and

20 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II served as more than just a  
21 spiritual leader for the world's Catholics, but as one of the most  
22 influential and inspirational world leaders of the 20th and 21st  
23 centuries; and

24 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II ministered to Catholic and  
25 non-Catholic alike, providing a personal example of grace,  
26 endurance, compassion, courage, sacrifice, and foresight; and

27 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II sought to heal divisions  
28 between the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations  
29 and confessions, Judaism, and Islam, expressing sadness and  
30 regret for the individual sins of present and former Catholics and  
31 promoting reconciliation and dialogue through the first-ever  
32 papal visits to synagogues and mosques, as well as visits to areas  
33 of historic conflict, including the Holy Land; and

34 WHEREAS, In 1995, Pope John Paul II wrote of “the  
35 incomparable worth of the human person,” noting that “Even in  
36 the midst of difficulties and uncertainties, every person sincerely  
37 open to truth and goodness can, by the light of reason and the  
38 hidden action of grace, come to recognize . . . the sacred value of  
39 human life . . . and can affirm the right of every human being to  
40 have this primary good respected to the highest degree”; and

1 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II carried on an active  
2 correspondence with world leaders during the 1980s, involving  
3 the Church in efforts to promote peace by reducing tensions, and  
4 exerting his moral authority to persuade the superpowers to  
5 engage in a “dialogue” that succeeded in reducing conventional  
6 and nuclear weapons and helped to avert nuclear war; and

7 WHEREAS, During his 1979 visit to Ireland, Pope John Paul  
8 II made an impassioned plea for an end to violence in Northern  
9 Ireland, saying, “On my knees, I beg you to turn away from the  
10 path of violence and to return to the ways of peace”; and

11 WHEREAS, He was a consistent voice for peace, opposing  
12 wars such as those in Iraq and Chechnya and urging mediation,  
13 because respect for and development of human life require peace;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, He called for respect of the environment and  
16 noted that man’s dominion over nature is not absolute, while  
17 reminding us that nature was destined for the common good of  
18 past, present, and future humanity, and that the use of natural  
19 resources cannot be divorced from respect from moral  
20 imperatives; and

21 WHEREAS, He stood up for organized labor, the unborn, the  
22 aged, the infirm, the disabled, the family, marriage, the hungry  
23 and the poor, and against euthanasia, tyranny, assisted suicide,  
24 the violation of human persons, diseases, materialism,  
25 consumerism, and oppression; and

26 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II changed the course of history,  
27 leading the Catholic Church through a dramatic and remarkable  
28 period, and into Christianity’s third millennium; and

29 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II devoted his life to the  
30 amelioration of the human cost of terror and oppression through  
31 his dedication to truth, forgiveness, and the development of a  
32 vibrant public moral culture; and

33 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II articulated the importance of  
34 undergirding individual liberty with a “moral order,” embraced  
35 the poor and oppressed masses of the world, and encouraged  
36 governments and the faithful to attend to the needs of those who  
37 are less fortunate; and

38 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II changed the lives of millions of  
39 people across the globe; and

1 WHEREAS, Even in his last days, Pope John Paul II offered  
2 an example of unselfish service to his fellow man; and

3 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005, after  
4 heroically proclaiming the value and dignity of human life  
5 through his long physical illness and suffering; and

6 WHEREAS, The passing of Pope John Paul II has been  
7 mourned by billions of people around the world; and

8 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II is already being referred to as  
9 Pope John Paul the Great; now, therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
11 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature:

12 (1) Notes with deep sorrow and solemn mourning the death of  
13 His Holiness Pope John Paul II;

14 (2) Extends its heartfelt sympathy to all people who have been  
15 touched by the passing of Pope John Paul II;

16 (3) Commends Pope John Paul II for his ability to transcend  
17 the bounds of religion, race, and political thought, becoming a  
18 formidable champion, uniter, and defender in humanity's  
19 struggle for peace and basic human rights; and

20 (4) Calls on all the people of California to reflect on the life  
21 and legacy of Pope John Paul II during this international period  
22 of remembrance; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit  
24 copies of this resolution to the Apostolic Nuncio at the  
25 Nunciature of the Holy See in Washington, DC, the President of  
26 Poland, the Governor of the State of California, and the United  
27 States Secretary of State.